

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-10, 13, 16-20, 23 and 50 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 19, 20, 23 and 50 are amended and Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 are cancelled by the present amendment. Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed, for instance, in Fig. 37 and page 68, lines 19-21. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7, 10, 13-18, 23 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Eldridge et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,421,716, herein “Eldridge”); and Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Eldridge.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-10, 13-20, 23 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Eldridge, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

a service providing part configured to provide a service which a user utilizes,

wherein said service providing part further includes a service information providing part configured to provide information concerning the service, in response to a request from a user terminal, to the user terminal, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected, and

wherein the service is configured to operate a hardware resource which performs image formation,

wherein said service information providing part includes a service information obtaining part obtaining the information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing the information concerning the service, and wherein the request includes a search condition, and said service information providing part further includes a determining part based on the search condition whether or not the information concerning the service obtained by said service

information obtaining part is information concerning the service required by the request.

Claims 13, 23 and 50 recite similar features.

Eldridge describes a system for performing document services using a mobile computing device. Specifically, Eldridge describes that a user is able to use a mobile phone to select a document stored on a remote server to be acted upon by one of a number of remote services.

However, Eldridge does not describe or suggest that said service providing part further includes a service information providing part configured to provide information concerning the service, in response to a request from a user terminal, to the user terminal, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action states on pages 2 and 3 that Eldridge describes providing information concerning the service, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected. The outstanding Action cites item 706 “Print service coupled to IR port” as being equivalent to the port number corresponding to an end point of the service. However, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, item 706 of Eldridge is not equivalent to a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service. Figure 7 of Eldridge illustrates that the service directory 704 includes the print service currently connected to the IR port of the device via the gateway 114, as well as several sub-directories which also potentially include available services. However, the information sent to the mobile device and displayed

on the screen 500 in Eldridge is not a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service. This feature is simply not described or suggested in Eldridge.

Specifically, the “IR port” of Eldridge is different from the recited “port”. For instance, the “IR port” of Eldridge is an “infrared port” for infrared data communication¹ which is not the type of “port” recited in the claim and described in the specification. In contrast, the type of port recited in the claimed invention is a computer port used for network communication as in TCP or UDP transport layer protocols.

In order to communicate with TCP or UDP transport layer protocols, not only the IP address of the destination, but also the port number is needed. A description of an IR port is not sufficient to anticipate the claimed port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service.

In addition, while Eldridge merely describes that a list of available services available for acting on a remote document is sent to a mobile device, Claim 1 describes that information that enables the user to utilize the service when selected includes a port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service.

As is discussed on page 3, lines 4-6 of the current disclosure, systems such as the one disclosed in Eldridge have a problem that they only provide a list of available services. The information necessary for the client terminal to directly access the various services is not included along with the list of available services.

In contrast, the claimed invention describes that the information that enables the user to utilize the service when selected is initially provided to the user. Thus, when the user desires to select an available service, the user is able to quickly and efficiently access the service without having to receive additional information.

¹ See col. 6, line 23 of Eldridge.

In Eldridge the mobile user device does not actually contain a copy of the document to be acted upon by the service. Instead the system of Eldridge describes that tokens representing the documents are sent to a server along with a selection of a service from a list of available services that is provided. The user device of Eldridge does not need to access information such as the port number of a transport layer protocol corresponding to an end point of the service and thus this information is not sent to the user mobile device along with the list of available services.

Further, Claim 1 recites that the information includes an operation status of the service. This feature also is not described or suggested in Eldridge. The outstanding Action states that item 500 in Figure 7 of Eldridge is equivalent to the recited operation status of the service, however, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Specifically, the “status:printing” shown in Figure 7 is not an operation status of the *service* but is instead a status of the “mobile computing device” described in lines 36-38 of col. 6. Thus, item 500 of Figure 7 of Eldridge cannot be asserted as describing this feature of the claimed invention.

In addition, Applicants note that Eldridge does not describe or suggest that said service information providing part includes a service information obtaining part obtaining the information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing the information concerning the service or that the request includes a search condition, and said service information providing part further includes a determining part based on the search condition whether or not the information concerning the service obtained by said service information obtaining part is information concerning the service required by the request, as is recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claims 13, 23 and 50, and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Eldridge.

In addition, with respect to rejection of Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Eldridge, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The outstanding Action states on page 4 that

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant has argued that the limitations of claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 are not nonfunctional descriptive material because the data displayed is different depending on the type of language the user terminal uses. However, this is not claimed in the claim language.

Applicants note that Claims 8 and 19 have been amended to clarify the features recited therein to emphasize the functional nature of the features recited in these claims. For instance, Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the request includes language indication information indicating a preferred language and that the service information providing part provides at least a portion of the information concerning the service in the preferred language based on the language indication information. These features are not described or suggested in the cited Eldridge reference and cannot be asserted as being non-functional descriptive material. Moreover, Claim 19 recites similar features to Claim 8.

With regard to Claims 9 and 20, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims further define the information concerning the service and cannot be asserted as being non-functional descriptive material.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that rejection of Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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